

Message Text

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14-12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03

OPIC-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /098 W
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R 060826Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9067

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, ENRG, TU

SUBJECT: MOBIL PROBLEM IN TURKEY

REF: (A) ISTANBUL 1268; (B) ISTANBUL 1356

1. TEMPORARY COMPROMISE WORKED OUT BETWEEN MOBIL AND BP AND MINISTRY OF ENERGY HAS DRAWN STRONG CRITICISM IN PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES. FINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOBIL AND MINISTRY ON PRICE REMAINS TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT MOBIL RESUMPTION OF IMPORTS OF CRUDE OIL AND MINISTRY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME AT AGREED PRICE BRINGS REPRIEVE FROM MAY 6 DEADLINE. HAD MOBIL AND BP AND MINISTRY NOT ACTED PRIOR TO MAY 6, MINISTRY WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPELLED UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 132 OF TURKISH PETROLEUM LAW TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST MOBIL AND BP SHARES OF ATAS REFINERY.

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2. PARTISAN PRESS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF MINISTRY

OF ENERGY DECISION, ACCUSING MINISTER KILIC OF BOWING TO OIL COMPANY PRESSURE AND ACCEPTING HIGHER PRICE PROPOSED BY COMPANIES. CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES DEALING WITH TECHNICAL PRICING DATA, GENERALLY MISINFORMED, ARE APPEARING DAILY IN THE TURKISH PRESS. PARTISAN POLITICS HAS NOW ENTERED THE FRAY WITH FORMER REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY EX-MINISTER OF FINANCE DENIZ BAYKAL AND RPP MINISTER OF ENERGY CAHIT KAYRA BITTERLY CRITICAL OF DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S OIL POLICY. PRESS REPORTS ALSO CLAIM THAT RPP WILL BRING UP CENSURE MOTION IN PARLIAMENT AGAINST DEMIREL GOVERNMENT OVER OIL ISSUE, BUT RPP FIRST WANTS TO ALLOW THE ISSUE TO "MATURE" AMONG THE PUBLIC.

3. RPP SPOKESMEN HAVE TAKEN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK THE "NATIONALIST FRONT" ON ITS OWN NATIONALISTIC HOME GROUNDS, BY CLAIMING THAT DEMIREL GOVERNMENT HAS LET OPPORTUNITY TO LEGITIMATELY NATIONALIZE ATAS REFINERY SLIP THROUGH ITS FINGERS. CLAIMING THAT "THE GOVERNMENT HAS RUSHED TO THE AID OF FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES ONLY SIX DAYS BEFORE THE TAKEOVER DEADLINE WAS TO EXPIRE". BAYKAL AND KAYRA ASK RHETORICAL QUESTION, "WHAT KIND OF A NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT IS THIS?"

4. INTENSE CRITICISM THAT HAS FOLLOWED THE REPORTS OF A COMPROMISE BETWEEN COMPANIES AND MINISTRY CONFIRMS AGAIN THAT PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE FOREIGN COMPANIES IN WHAT IS REGARDED AS A "CRITICAL" INDUSTRY IN TURKEY WILL BE EXPOSED TO SHARP ATTACK ON EVERY CONCEIVABLE OCCASION.
MACOMBER

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